Prime Minister held discussions with the French authorities relating to Indo-French bilateral cooperation; Indo-French ExtraditionTreaty was signed by Dy. P.M. on 24.012.003. During his stay in Paris the Dy. P.M. also met the French Prime Minister Mr. Jean Pierre Reffarin, Interior Minister Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy Minister for Justice Mr. Dominique Perben,Transport Minister Mr. Gilles de Robien, and Defence Minister Mme. Michele Alliot Marlei.

Violation of flag code

148. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact thatat some places on the Republic Day i.e. 26th January, 2003 there were incidents of violation of flag code;

(b) if so, whether any complaints have been received in the Ministry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the complaints received in the Ministry; and

(d) the action contemplated by Government against the errants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Flag code is a compendium of executive instructions and has no legal back up. Therefore, action cannot be taken against anyone for violation of the provisions of the code. However, insult to the National Flag is an offence underThe Prevention of Insult to National Honour Act, 1971. Action under this Act is taken by the concerned State Governments. No specific complaint about insult to the National Flag on 26th Juanry, 2003 within the meaning of The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 has been received by the Government.

Mineral exploration of A.P. Government

149. DR. ALLADI R RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the details of proposals of the Andhra Pradesh Government for mineral exploration cleared by the Union Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): During the current year (1st April, 2002 to